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Wright, and Pittman have produced important studies that shed new light upon colonial conditions in that area. Bolton, Chapman, Priestley, Dunn, Hughes, Hackett, and Marshall — not to mention others — have cleared up many obscure spots in the history of Mexico and of our own southwest. Sir Clements Markham for an earlier day, and Miss Williams and Mr. Scroggs for a later period, have written entertainingly and informingly upon Central America, Colombia, and Peru. Surely a writer of the present day, even if he merely aims to produce a popular compendium, must make some use of these works. If Irving and Prescott are one's chief guides the reader may expect to encounter the Roderick myth (p. 12), but no adequate account of colonial administrative machinery (p. 38) or explanation of unfamiliar offices (e. g. *corregidor*, pp. 95, 121). The author seems to favor such a source as Fiske rather than Helps; and occasionally his narrative is too nearly like another's for conscientious comfort (cf. p. 122 and Bourne, *Spain in America*, p. 265).

In treating the tangled maze of Hispanic history it is extremely difficult to keep the time and place factors clearly in view. For this reason the reader might merely question the method of treating the Spanish colonies (chapters ix-xi inclusive) without adverse comment, but he would certainly expect to find these areas more closely connected with the corresponding modern republics than they are in this book, and the interrelation between these nationalities more thoroughly shown. The reader might also ask for a more conclusive explanation of the causes of our own revolution (p. 112), or of the Mexican war (pp. 204, 205), or of recent happenings in Mexico (pp. 256, 257), or of our much maligned Monroe doctrine (p. 263). With regard to the early phases of Pan-Americanism, the author should certainly give some attention to the claims of our own Jefferson as its originator, or even James Wilkinson, as well as to the claims of Henry Clay and Bolívar (p. 267).

To sum up the matter: Mr. Sweet undertook a worthy task without adequately preparing himself for it; because of war-time duties he lacked opportunity to bestow upon each step the painstaking care that scholarship demands. Thus his faults and misfortunes have largely neutralized his commendable purpose.

I. J. C.

South and Central American trade conditions of today. New and revised edition with complete information to 1919. By A. Hyatt Verrill. (New York: Dodd, Mead and company, 1919. 212 p. \$1.50)
Understanding South America. By Clayton Sedgwick Cooper. (New York: George H. Doran company, [1918]. 426 p. \$2.00 net)

Neither of these volumes is historical in character, but both will be found useful for a course in Hispanic-American history. Mr. Cooper

gives wider scope to his work than Mr. Verrill. He devotes his chapters chiefly to the separate countries of South America, but precedes this major portion of the volume with some general observations and ends it with some consideration of present social and economic conditions. He writes sympathetically and from actual experience; but he does not hesitate to point out some just criticisms of his whilom hosts, usually uttered by themselves. He seems to generalize too readily and not all his characterizations can be accepted without being carefully checked with authoritative sources. Yet his volume will be useful for a general study of South America, possibly supplementing the better-known books of Bryce and Ross.

Mr. Verrill, in this revised edition of his earlier book, is wholly commercial, and his book thus has its field clearly defined. Yet it will have some use for the historical student. The latter will find the "Facts and figures" of part 3 convenient for reference, in lieu of better authorities. He would have more confidence in them had the author indicated the sources of his information.

Both volumes touch upon the effects of the war. Mr. Cooper devotes a chapter to exposing the workings of German intrigue in Latin America, and often mentions prospective conditions following the world conflict. Mr. Verrill shows the changes in exports and imports during the war itself, but gives little encouragement for a continuance of our commercial advantage, now that war-time restrictions are removed. From his pages one gathers the impression that our merchants are not yet using in any great measure such improved methods as we have been led to expect.

Mexico. From Cortes to Carranza. By Louise S. Hasbrouck. (New York: D. Appleton and company, 1918. 330 p. \$1.50 net)

Mexico under Carranza. A lawyer's indictment of the crowning infamy of four hundred years of misrule. By Thomas Edward Gibbon. (New York: Doubleday, Page and company, 1919. 270 p. \$1.50)

Mexico today and tomorrow. By E. D. Trowbridge. (New York: Macmillan company, 1919. 282 p. \$2.00)

These three volumes, figuring among the recent popular books on Mexico, are of varying merit. Miss Hasbrouck starts out with the worthy purpose of making the history of Mexico attractive for children. She succeeds fairly well albeit with some regrettable perversion of historical facts and some typographical errors and misspellings. About half of her volume, as might be anticipated, is concerned with the Aztecs and the career of Cortes. There is a chapter devoted to the life of Aztec children and another in which a child is supposed to tell the story of Mexico's struggle for independence from the Spanish rule.